DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

February 23, 2000

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-15-00

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
        ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK CORRDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL	
[ ]	State Law Change
[ ]	Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ]	Court Order or Settlement Agreement
[ ]	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
☒	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: THE WELFARE INFORMATION NETWORK AND THE EMPLOYMENT
               DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WELFARE-TO-WORK WEBSITE

The purpose of this notice is to inform you about an excellent way to learn and share best or promising practices through the Welfare Information Network (WIN) and the Employment Development Department (EDD) Welfare-to-Work (WtW) web sites. WIN provides a variety of information from promising practices to technical assistance. It is a clearinghouse on welfare reform related information. A brief introduction of WIN is included on Attachment A.

The EDD WtW also has established a web site at wwwedd.cahwnet.gov/wtowsao.htm for WtW providers to post on-line strategies and successful experiences. For a glimpse of EDD WtW web site, we have attached a copy of their "Strategies in Action" web page (Attachment B).

Through various means of communication and, in particular, at several partnering conferences such as the Strengthening the Bridge, CalWORKs Partnership and the 2-Parent Symposium, counties have expressed a need for a vehicle to share with and to learn more about what other counties are doing. In response, the California Department of Social Services Regional Advisors Office has made arrangements with WIN for counties to submit their successful experiences, strategies, and/or techniques for posting on the WIN web site. WIN will establish electronic linkages to EDD's WtW web site to ensure that the county information is posted on both web sites.

Below are the process and some instructions on how to submit your information to WIN:

♦ Complete either one of the standardized forms (Template A or B – Attachment C or Attachment D). Please fill out as much information as possible. If you are unable to complete the entire form, submit to WIN with whatever you were able to fill out.

♦ There are three ways to submit the information. However, whichever method you choose, please follow-up with a hard copy to WIN to ensure all the information was transferred correctly.

1. E-mail document as an attachment to Ms. April Kaplan, WIN, akap@welfareinfo.org with a message to post the information on the C-WIC.org web site; (WIN has designed their web site to contain two state specific sites, the California Welfare Information Clearinghouse (C-WIC) and the Illinois Welfare Information Network (IWIN) which provide access to a series of additional resources and programs relative to those individual states)

2. Fax information to: Ms. Kaplan, (202) 628-4206; or

3. Send the information on disk to the Welfare Information Network, 1000 Vermont Avenue, Northwest, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005, Attention: April Kaplan.

♦ WIN will post the information within a couple of days. They will send the originator a notice identifying the exact location of the submitted information for review. If there are any comments or concerns, contact Ms. Kaplan at (202) 628-5790.

We encourage you to both share your promising practices via this web site and to use the web site as a resource. If you have any questions, please contact the Regional Advisors Office at (916) 654-0617 or as mentioned earlier, Ms. April Kaplan.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Gordon V. Scott

GORDON V. SCOTT
REGIONAL ADVISORS OFFICE
WELFARE-TO-WORK DIVISION

Attachments

Introduction to the Welfare Information Network

What Is The Welfare Information Network?

The Welfare Information Network (WIN) - WIN provides information on policy choices, promising practices, program and financial data, funding sources, federal and state legislation and plans, program and management tools, and technical assistance. WIN's web site provides one stop access to over 9,000 links on more than 400 web sites.

WIN is a foundation funded project to help organizations and individuals obtain the information, policy analysis, and technical assistance they need to develop and implement welfare reforms that will reduce dependency and promote the well-being of children and families. WIN, a special activity of the Finance Project:

> *Maintains a clearinghouse of welfare reform related information, policy analysis, and technical assistance resources; maintains networks of related organizations, analysts, and technical assistance providers and encourages the exchange of information among those networks; and identifies information and technical assistance needs and brokers access to appropriate providers and resources.*

What Services Are Available From WIN?

WEB SITE - The WIN web site is updated weekly and serves as an important vehicle for disseminating information in the WIN clearinghouse.

The site includes summaries of federal welfare legislation, a catalog of links to other welfare related web sites, a calendar of welfare related events, and links to over 9,000 organizations and publication pages containing program information, policy analysis, legislative information, and "best practices". The site provides links to state agency sites and to electronic versions of state TANF plans. A "Hot Topics" page highlights recent publications, planned research and evaluation activities, and contains discussions of emerging issues.

Two state specific sites, the California Welfare Information Clearinghouse (C-WIC) and the Illinois Welfare Information Network (IWIN) provide access to a series of additional resources and programs relative to those individual states.

CLEARINGHOUSE - WIN has an extensive database containing information on organizations, individual experts, publications, state and local initiatives, technical assistance service offerings, and web sites. The clearinghouse includes sources of welfare related information and policy analysis, "best practices", research and evaluation findings, and providers of technical assistance and training.

The clearinghouse information is organized around 75-80 program and management issues, including:

Agency Organization/Reorganization	Health Care and Medicaid
Applicant Diversion	Immigrants
Business Process Redesign	Income Disregards
Child Care	Management Information Systems
Child Welfare/Child Development	Performance Management
Child Support	Pregnancy Prevention
Community Work Experience/Work Relief	Privatization (For Profit, Non-Profit)
Domestic Violence	Sanctions
Economic and Job Development	Teen Parents
Education and Training Programs	Time Limits
Faith-Based Involvement	Transportation
Fatherhood	TANF Work Requirements
Hard to Place Recipients/Substance Abuse	

The clearinghouse can be accessed by contacting WIN staff by electronic mail or by telephone.

TARGETED DATA COLLECTION - WIN staff are available to assist foundations and their grantees in researching questions regarding welfare related issues that are not in the database. Priority is given to those questions likely to be of interest to multiple users. WIN may contact national experts, other organizations, or a sampling of states or localities.

WIN PUBLICATIONS - Issue Notes and Resources for Welfare Decisions are available both electronically and in printed form. Promising Practices are available electronically. Individuals and organizations who would like hard copy versions of WIN publications should write to WIN and request to be included on the Issue Notes mailing list.

Issue Notes are brief 8-12 page papers that discuss priority policy issues confronting policy makers, practitioners, and others concerned with the implementation of welfare reform. Each paper contains background information, a discussion of the key policy questions, a summary of available research, and information on promising practices. Where appropriate, Issue Notes also list individuals and organizations who are able to provide additional information or consultation.

Resources for Welfare Decisions are shorter 2-4 page papers that summarize publications, initiatives, and contacts included in the WIN clearinghouse. These papers are intended to facilitate access to resources on priority issues.

Promising Practices provide concise descriptions about some of the most often discussed promising welfare reform practices at the state and local levels, including information about a project's purpose, administrative structure, funding sources, evaluation and outcome measures, and resources contacts.

SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING - WIN staff is available to consult with foundations and grantees on a limited basis to assist in defining the technical assistance needed to develop policies and implementation strategies.

Who Can Use WIN Services?

Everyone is welcome to use WIN resources on the Internet. The primary clients for other WIN services are the states and communities engaged in designing and implementing welfare reform, the national and regional organizations that serve state and community leaders, and foundations. WIN serves both the legislative and executive branches. Information in the WIN clearinghouse is also available to the federal government, researchers, and technical assistance providers. WIN services are available free of charge.

The WELFARE INFORMATION NETWORK is supported by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Woods Fund of Chicago, the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Welfare to Work Offices, U.S. Department of Labor.

WEB SITE: www.welfareinfo.org

E-MAIL: welfinfo@welfareinfo.org

TELEPHONE: 202/628-5790

FAX: 202/628-4206

MAILING ADDRESS: 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005

 Return to Welfare Information Home Page

CALIFORNIA   T H E   G O L D E N   S T A T E

Employment Development Department

Welfare-to-Work

Strategies in Action--Overview

Employment
and Training

Submit a
New Strategy

View
Strategies

Do you have a successful strategy to share with us? We need to hear from Welfare-to-Work (WtW) practitioners who have used successful strategies to place welfare recipients in the workforce and help them succeed on the job. Why? Learning what works and what does not is vital to the success of California's WtW program. All WtW practitioners who are operating under the WtW Grant program are invited to share their successful experiences, strategies, and techniques with others by using this forum: *Strategies in Action*. By taking some time to share your successes, you will help California meet the challenges of moving people from welfare to work.

What is the *Strategies in Action* Web site about?
Who may submit a strategy?
How can I submit a strategy?
When will my strategy be posted?
How often are new strategies added?
How can strategies be viewed?

What is the *Strategies in Action* Web site about?

Strategies in Action provides a forum for local practitioners to share experiences, strategies, and techniques for successful operation of WtW Grant programs. Strategies are compiled under the most frequently discussed WtW topics at the State and local levels. Each strategy contains a short narrative describing the strategy, approach, or technique, and the location, organization, funding resources, and results. Contact information is also provided to answer questions or obtain additional information.

Strategies are sorted into two categories: effective and promising. **Effective** program strategies are backed by measurable data, for example, the number of job placements, documented improvement in skills, and increase in the number of enrollments. **Promising** strategies contain evidence of quality but no quantifiable evidence. They may include evidence that an activity is improving participant self-sufficiency, strong testimonials, or widespread support from other stakeholders.

Who may submit a strategy?

Any entity operating a WtW program may submit a strategy.

How can I submit a strategy?

If you would like to submit your successful strategy to *Strategies in Action*, complete the Submit a New Strategy form and click on the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page. To print the completed form, select the print button on your browser prior to submitting the form.

Strategies can also be submitted via fax or mail. When the form is completed, select the print button on your browser to print the form. Send your completed form to:

Mail: Welfare-to-Work Coordination Unit
Job Training Partnership Division
P.O. Box 826880, MIC 69-1

Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

Fax: (916) 654-7921

When will my strategy be posted?

Strategies that represent successful experiences, approaches, and techniques will be posted as soon as they are reviewed. Strategies received are reviewed and selected by a team of WtW practitioners from State and local levels using the following criteria:

- A well-written narrative that clearly explains what the strategy is designed to accomplish;
- A description of who is involved or affected by the strategy; and
- Compelling evidence that the strategy works, for example, the number of job placements, increase in the number of enrollments, strong testimonials, etc.

How often are new strategies added?

Strategies are added as they are received, reviewed, and selected. New strategies will be posted at the top of the View Strategies page.

How can strategies be viewed?

Strategies are currently being solicited and will be available for viewing soon.

EDD Home Page | **Top of Page** | **Contact Us**

CALIFORNIA   **T H E   G O L D E N   S T A T E**

Employment Development Department

Welfare-to-Work

Strategies in Action--Submit a New Strategy

Please use the form below to tell us about successful strategies, methods, or approaches used to implement the WtW Grant program in your local area. It is essential that your submission show evidence of success in terms of participant experience or any affect on other stakeholders. To complete this form, see Instructions to Submit a New Strategy. For complete topic descriptions, see the Strategy Topic Descriptions.

Select a Topic:

| Choose one | ▼ |

This strategy takes place in a(n) | urban ▼ | area.

This organization is a(n) | SDA/PIC ▼ |

This strategy uses funding from | WtW 85% Formula Grant ▼ |

If Other Funding selected, please define | |

Narrative: Please provide a short narrative (200 words or less) clearly describing the strategy.

This strategy is | effective ▼ | .

Results: Briefly describe the results or evidence that demonstrate that the strategy is successful.

Contact Information:

Contact Person

Title

Organization Name

Address

City [   ] State [ ] ZIP Code [   ]

Phone [   ] Ext. [ ] Fax [   ]

E-Mail Address [   ]

Website Address [   ]

Submit   Reset

EDD Home Page | **Top of Page** | **Contact Us**

CALIFORNIA **T H E   G O L D E N   S T A T E**

Employment Development Department

Welfare-to-Work

Strategies in Action--Strategy Topic Descriptions

Overview
Submit a
New Strategy

Strategies in Action provides a forum for local practitioners to share experiences, strategies, and techniques for successful operation of WtW Grant programs. Strategies are compiled under the following most frequently discussed topics at the State and local levels.

Strategy
Topic
Descriptions

Instructions
to Submit a
New Strategy

	Topic	Description
1.	Building Local Partnerships	Strategies used to form local partnerships, overcome partnership issues, and methods for working together.
2.	Recruiting WtW Grant Eligible Individuals	Strategies used to recruit WtW eligible individuals for enrollment into the WtW Grant program. May provide specific information on how to reach 70 percent eligible individuals.
3.	Designing "Work First" Programs	Approaches used to meet the "work first" requirements of the WtW federal legislation.
4.	Combining Work With Development of Basic and Job-Related Skills	Strategies used to link work activities with the development of basic and job-related skills as a way to advance in employment and obtain economic self-sufficiency.
5.	Developing Post-Employment Services That Provide Skill Enhancement and Upward Mobility	Post-employment services used to provide skill enhancement and upward mobility.
6.	Serving Noncustodial Parents	Approaches used to recruit and/or provide services to noncustodial parents.
7.	Serving Individuals Facing Substance Abuse Problems	Specific strategies used to assist individuals facing substance abuse problems.
8.	Strategies for Successful Client Job Search	Approaches used to assist WtW individuals in a successful job search.
9.	Employer Involvement in Designing Customized Training to Meet Employers' Needs	Strategies used to involve employers in designing training that will meet employers' needs and expectations.
10.	Targeting Jobs, Employers, and Industries With Opportunities for Advancement	Methods used to target jobs, employers, or specific industries that have opportunities for WtW individuals to advance.
11.	Operating a WtW Program in a Rural Environment	Approaches used to overcome some of the unique characteristics of operating a WtW Grant program in a rural environment.
12.	Increasing Job Retention	Strategies used to assist WtW individuals in retaining employment.

EDD Home Page | **Top of Page** | **Contact Us**

WELFARE INFORMATION NETWORK (WIN) TEMPLATE A

General Information:

Initiative Name

Organization sponsoring the Initiative

Description of Initiative (150 words or less)

Contact Information:

Address

Contact

Phone Number

Email

Fax Number

Additional Information:

Is the initiative
❏ Multisite
❏ Single Location

Is the initiative foundation funded?
❏ No
❏ Yes, If yes, Foundation Name

Has the initiative been evaluated?
❏ No
❏ Yes   If yes, specify the names of publications with the evaluation information or other information on the program?

Does the initiative have a Web Site?

WELFARE INFORMATION NETWORK (WIN) TEMPLATE B

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Purpose

Programs and/or Services

Location

Clientele

Performance Measures

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Publications and Other Descriptive Material

Formal Evaluation and Outcome Data

Contact for Further Information

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Administering Agency

Funding Entity/Source

Technical Assistance Provider

Start Date and End Date